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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,636	11/29/2001	Carl J. Pacifico	1001-13 RES	4050

7590

12/01/2004

Hoffman & Baron LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, NY 11791

EXAMINER

ACQUAH, SAMUEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/996,636

Applicant(s)

PACIFICO ET AL.

Examiner

SAMUEL A. ACQUAH

Art Unit

1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/23/04' 05/03/04; 06/21/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-1, 14-20, 21, and 23-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by GB 825,480.

The cited prior art discloses a method of encapsulating a sensitive material comprising a solid carrier with an adsorption of the sensitive material, in an atmosphere inert to the sensitive material, to form an encapsulated material. The prior art sensitive material is a bioactive material such as bacteria, an example of which is lactobacillus acidophilus. The solid carrier is a porous material such as a powder which is contacted with the lyophilized sensitive material and mixed in an oxygen-free, inert atmosphere and freeze-dried to form particles comprising the solid carrier and the sensitive material. Although the prior art does not specifically mention "plating", that process would be inherent in the prior art process because when the porous powder solid carrier is contacted with the sensitive material solution and freeze dried, the composition would inherently form a plating of sensitive material on the surface of the solid carrier material particles. The particles are then encapsulated by filling in a capsule. The process occurs in an oxygen-free, moisture-free inert atmosphere. See pages 1-5.

Art Unit: 1711

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1,318,799.

The cited prior art teaches an encapsulation process for encapsulating active materials wherein polyglycols are employed to desolventize the capsule composition and the capsules may be formed by a spraying operation. The sensitive material may be an insecticide, herbicide, medicinal compounds, organic compounds such as citric acid, lemon oil, and inorganic compounds such as calcium oxide. The final product of the prior art process is an anhydrous capsule granule comprising the sensitive material. See Example 1 on page 5. It is the Examiner's position that the encapsulation of a sensitive material by spraying and encapsulation processes as claimed would have obvious based on the teachings of the prior art.

3. Other references listed on PTO-1449 have been made part of the record.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAMUEL A. ACQUAH whose telephone number is 571-272-1065. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH, FRIDAYS OFF.

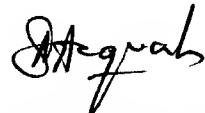
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAMES SEIDLECK can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone

Art Unit: 1711

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

S.A.A.
1/26/04


SAMUEL A. ACQUAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP ~~1200~~ 1700